



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Annual Report for Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

DATES: The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) if the information will be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (4) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (5) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mara Blumenthal by telephone at 202-693-8538, or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), codified as part 7 of title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), was enacted to improve the portability and continuity of health care coverage for participants and beneficiaries of group health plans. HIPAA also added section 101(g) to ERISA, providing the Secretary of Labor with authority to require, by regulation, multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWAs) as defined in section 3(40) of ERISA, that offer or provide coverage for medical benefits, but which are not group health plans (non-plan MEWAs), to report annually for the purpose of determining compliance with part 7 requirements. While the statutory authority was directed at non-plan MEWAs, based on the authority in ERISA sections 101(g), 505, and 734, DOL in 2003 promulgated a regulation at 29 CFR 2520.101-2 that required the administrators of both plan MEWAs and non-plan MEWAs that offer or provide coverage for medical benefits to file the Form M-1 on an annual basis. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the *Federal Register* on March 17, 2022 (87 FR 15267).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. *See* 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The

DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

Agency: DOL-EBSA.

Title of Collection: Annual Report for Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements.

OMB Control Number: 1210-0116.

Affected Public: Private Sector— Businesses or other for-profits and not-for-profit institutions.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 719.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 719.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 1,839 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$0.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D))

Dated: June 22, 2022.

Mara Blumenthal,

Senior PRA Analyst.

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